

THE COMPLEAT PEDIATRICIAN—Eighth Revised Edition—Practical, Diagnostic, Therapeutic and Preventive Pediatrics—For the Use of General Practitioners, Pediatricians, Interns, and Medical Students—Wilburt C. Davison, M.A., D.Sc., M.D., James B. Duke Professor of Pediatrics, Duke University School of Medicine, and Pediatrician, Duke University Medical Center; and Jeana Davison Levinthal, B.A., M.D., Research Associate, Harvard Medical School. Printed by Seeman Printery for Duke University Press, Durham, N. C., 1961. \$4.50 by check with order, or \$4.75 on credit.

For those who, like this reviewer, have obtained all previous copies of *The Compleat Pediatrician*, or perhaps only one or two, who have learned to use it and are aware of its value and its limitations, the new eighth edition—the first since 1957—is an automatic must. Others should give it careful consideration and, in so doing, are likely to decide to add it to their shelves, or, as the authors suggest, put it into their bags. This is a unique volume—a comprehensive notebook covering amazingly well, if not quite “completely,” the enormous field of clinical and preventive pediatrics. It is most impressive to find that the authors read and abstracted 3,250 references in preparing the new edition. The volume measures 6x9 $\frac{1}{4}$ x $\frac{3}{4}$ inches and weighs 21 ounces. The text is a marvel of condensation in the course of which obviously a certain amount of material has had to be omitted which could only be covered in texts several times as bulky; nevertheless, one searching for information on nearly any topic will rarely fail to find the main pertinent details herein.

Reviewers are expected to find faults as well as merits. It is easy enough to find minor faults in this book, but they are relatively unimportant and need not be mentioned. One major fault which persists in this edition should, however, be noted: The uncritical inclusion of nearly every therapeutic measure described in the recent literature. For lupus erythematosus disseminatus, for example, some 25 different agents are mentioned under Treatment, including two similar steroids and also simple “steroids.” The pediatrician consulting this section for a program of therapy would certainly be confused and forced to look elsewhere for help. The fault recurs not infrequently throughout the book, which in this respect overreaches itself. It is not the intent, however, of the authors to propose this work as a substitute for other and larger texts or for the current literature.

The arrangement of the book and the excellent index make reference simple and rapid.

HAROLD K. FABER, M.D.

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PRACTITIONER'S HANDBOOK—Edited by William A. R. Thomson, M.D., editor of *The Practitioner*. J. B. Lippincott Company, East Washington Square, Philadelphia 5, Pennsylvania, 1961. 711 pages, \$12.50.

This volume is a British effort at postgraduate teaching for general practitioners. It is, essentially, a compilation of articles, published in *The Practitioner* since 1946 and revised either by the original authors or their successors. However, there has been comparatively little alteration in these revisions.

The objective of this book is not to give the latest news of the newest drugs but to provide the general practitioner with an authoritative, concise and practical review of long-accepted methods of diagnosis and treatment in clinical practice. The book is arranged to start with conception and work through old age. The coverage is admittedly unbalanced, with a great deal of attention devoted to diseases of women and children. (It devotes chapters to such problems as “The Child Who Won’t Eat,” “The Child Who Won’t Walk,” “The Child Who Won’t Talk,” etc.)

While *The Practitioner's Handbook* contains a lot of practical everyday knowledge, with emphasis on symptomatic therapy, this reviewer can recommend it only in a very restricted way to American general practitioners. A

number of the articles are written by men with “only maybe knowledge” of their problems. There is considerable overlapping of the subjects and there are differences of opinion offered by different authors (which does not disturb the editor). And the lack of completeness makes it of limited value as a reference.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.

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THERAPEUTIC EXERCISES—Second Edition—Edited by Sidney Licht, M.D., Honorary Member, British Association of Physical Medicine, Danish Society of Physical Medicine, and the French National Society of Physical Medicine. Assisted by Ernest W. Johnson, M.D., Associate Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Ohio State University College of Medicine. Elizabeth Licht, Publisher, 360 Fountain Street, New Haven, Connecticut.

This book is the second edition, which is being published only three years after the first one. The first edition was extremely popular, having shown itself to be the best available medical text in this field. The second edition actually has little to offer over the first one. An appendix chapter has been enlarged, and one on “gait” has been added.

This second edition has not made the first one obsolete and those persons owning the first edition should keep it. Those persons not having read this text will find that the 37 individual chapters written by separate authors on all aspects of exercises, designed primarily for use with medical patients, are an excellent presentation of the subject. The strengths of this book lie in its presentation of basic material and of general clinical application. The weaknesses of the book lie when it attempts to apply this to certain clinical conditions, such as cerebral palsy or multiple sclerosis, in which there is so much individuality among patients that no general prescription can be given unless the patient is first analyzed.

This book should be read by all physicians who deal in neuromuscular or musculoskeletal diseases, and are concerned with their physical treatment. It should be in all libraries as part of a physical medicine section.

S. MALVERN DORINSON, M.D.

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THE EXERCISE ELECTROCARDIOGRAM IN OFFICE PRACTICE—E. Gray Dimond, M.D., F.A.C.P., Director, Institute for Cardiopulmonary Diseases, Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation, La Jolla, California. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, 301-327 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, Illinois, 1961. 169 pages, \$10.00.

Dr. Dimond's monograph summarizes ten years' experience performing 1,000 exercise tests, with the view of determining their usefulness to the practicing physician. The author asks 16 pertinent questions concerning the exercise electrocardiogram and answers them, both from the literature and from his own experience. The exercise test itself is described in detail as well as the criteria for determining an abnormal response.

The second section consists of 68 typical case reports and reproductions of the electrocardiograph response to exercise, illustrating all the various responses that may occur. The book concludes with a bibliography of 98 references for further review.

The text is clear, the illustrations are well selected and printed, and the opinions presented are conservative and sound. The volume can be recommended to the practicing physician who wishes to take advantage of the current concept that electrocardiograms after exercise may permit diagnoses not possible from the resting record. As the author himself states, the monograph is not intended as a scientific appraisal of the physiological changes in the myocardium resulting from ischemia, but rather as evidence that an electrocardiogram after exercise not only adds to the clinical appraisal of a patient but, when done according to his method, is safe.